

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13 (canceled).

14. (new): A device for producing filter cigarettes (10) each comprising tobacco stick (11) and filter (12) and each having openings (13) arranged in an outer cork paper of the filter (12) that are applied by a perforation element (17), it being possible to check the size and number of openings (13) by directing test air through the openings (13) and it being possible to adjust the perforation element (17) as determined by measured results with respect to the number and/or size of the openings (13) to be applied, **characterized by** the following features:

- a) test air is conducted through the filter cigarette (10) for checking the openings (13) of each finished filter cigarette (10),
- b) test air is introduced under pressure into the filter (12) via a free end of said filter (12),
- c) test air emerging from the openings (13) as exit air is measured by a pressure meter (46),
- d) the pressure meter (46) is connected to a computer (44),
- e) the perforation element (17) is also connected to the computer (44) and is adjusted by the latter in accordance with the measured results,
- f) the exit air in a region of the openings (13) is measured continuously or cyclically by the pressure meter (46), and
- g) the measured results are introduced into a control loop for adjusting the perforation element (17).

15. (new): The device according to Claim 14, **characterized by** the following features:

- a) for the purpose of testing the openings, (13) the filter cigarettes (10) are supplied to a testing unit in which a region of the filter (12) is held in a testing chamber (22),
- b) the testing chamber (22) is sealed by sealing means, namely by a web (24, 37) or by a sealing lip (43) along a circumference of the filter (12) of the filter cigarette (12) such that the openings (13) are located in a region of the testing chamber,
- c) the testing chamber (22) is connected via an exit line (40, 45) to a pressure meter (46), and
- d) the pressures measured by the pressure meter (46) are passed on as signals to the computer (44).

16. (new): The device according to Claim 15, **characterized by** the following features:

- a) the testing unit is configured as a testing drum (18) having a plurality of hollows (19) arranged along the circumference for holding one filter cigarette (10) each,
- b) each hollow (19) of the testing drum (18) has a testing chamber (22) with sealing elements (24, 37, 43) in the region of the filter (12) of the filter cigarette (10) such that the openings (13) lie in the region of the testing chamber (22),
- c) the testing chamber (22) is delimited at the inner radial side of the hollows (19) in a region adjacent to the tobacco stick (11) by a web (24) as part of the hollow (19), and
- d) the testing chamber (22) is delimited at the outer radial side of the testing drum (18) by a matching hollow (34), which has a matching web (37) abutting the filter (12) or a sealing lip (43), which, supplementing the web (24), forms a circumferential seal of the testing chamber (22) at the filter cigarette (10).

17. (new): The device according to Claim 15, **characterized by** the following features:

- a) at least a first testing chamber (22) is formed in the region of the filter (12),

b) a further testing chamber (23) is formed in the region of the tobacco stick (11) of the filter cigarette (10),

c) the first testing chamber (22) in a region of the filter (12) is delimited from the further testing chamber (23) in the region of the tobacco stick (11) by a seal, namely by a web (24, 37),

d) each of the first and further testing chambers (22, 23) is assigned a pressure meter (46) via an exit line (45, 47), and

e) the pressure meter (46) is connected to the computer (44).

18. (new): The device according to Claim 16, **characterized by** the following features:

a) each hollow (19) of the testing drum (18) or each further testing chamber (23) is assigned a sealing element which, for the purpose of testing the filter cigarettes (10), can be placed on the testing drum (18) to form a closed, sealed first testing chamber (22),

b) the sealing elements as part of the first testing chamber (22) are fitted to a sealing conveyor (21), which rests on a circumference of the testing drum (18) at least during the testing of the filter cigarettes (10), and

c) the sealing elements on the sealing conveyor (21) have hollows, namely matching hollows (34) which, for the formation of the first testing chamber (22), together with the hollows (19) of the testing drum (18), form a closed hollow space, namely the first testing chamber (22), with webs (24) of the hollows (19) and matching hollows (34) of the sealing conveyor (21) forming a seal which encloses the filter cigarette (10) or the filter (12).

19. (new): The device according to Claim 16, **characterized by** the following features:

a) each hollow (19) or each further testing chamber (23) of the testing drum (18) is assigned a sealing element which for the purpose of checking the filter cigarette (10) is moved into a testing position to form a closed, sealed testing chamber (22) in the region of the filter (12),

b) the sealing elements are configured as sealing pieces (42) fitted on the testing drum (18) and which form a matching hollow (34) and which move against an outer radial side of the filter cigarette (10) to be checked, and

c) the sealing pieces (42) are pivotably mounted and are moved into a checking or sealing position by a pivoting movement, with a sealing means, namely a sealing lip (43) of the sealing piece (42), sealing the testing chamber (22) as a supplement to the webs (24) disposed on the testing drum (18).

20. (new): The device according to Claim 16, **characterized by** the following features:

a) the filter cigarettes (10) are held at their ends in the hollows (19) of the testing drum (18) by caps (25, 26) of resilient material,

b) the caps (25, 26) encompass one end of the filter (12), on one hand, and of the tobacco stick (11) of the filter cigarette (10), on the other, and

c) in a region of the testing chamber (22) assigned to the filter, a hole (27) passes through a cap (25) for the supply of compressed test air to the end of the filter.

21. (new): The device according to Claim 20, **characterized in that** the cap (25) attached to the free end of the tobacco stick (11) has a hole (27) which is connected by means of

a discharge line (47) to a pressure meter (46) for receiving the test air emerging at the end of the tobacco stick (11).

22. (new): A device for producing filter cigarettes (10) with openings (13) in an outer cork paper that are applied by a perforation element (17), it being possible to check the size and number of openings (13) by directing test air through the openings (13) and it being possible to adjust the perforation element (17) as determined by the measured results with respect to the number and/or size of the openings (13) to be applied, **characterized by** the following features:

- a) test air is conducted through each filter cigarette (10) for checking the openings (13) of the finished filter cigarette (10),
- b) for the purpose of testing, the filter cigarettes (10) are supplied to a testing unit in which a region of the filter (12) of the filter cigarette (10) is held in a testing chamber (22),
- c) the testing chamber (22) is connected via an exit line (40, 45) to a pressure meter (46),
- d) compressed test air is supplied to the filter cigarette (10) to be checked in an axial direction via a free end of the filter (12) and to enter the testing chamber (22) via the openings (13),
- e) the testing chamber (22) is connected via an exit line (40, 45) to a pressure meter (46),
- f) pressures measured by the pressure meter (46) are passed on as signals to a computer (44), and

g) the measured results are introduced into a control loop for adjusting the perforation element (17).